

Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, November 5, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, November 5, 1814.

Sir. I have the letter of the 23d Octr. with which you have honored me and was in hopes before this to have sent the Other topographical sketches mentioned in my last; they will be prepared I believe by the next mail.

The Citizens of this place see with pleasure the measures you are taking for their protection, and the Confidence your reputation inspired every day encreases; I speak of those who really are attached to the government and are willing to defend it, but I should lead you in to an error should I give the idea that there are no Others, unfortunately there are, they are however not sufficiently numerous, to operate actively; but they hang like a Dead weight upon the Zeal of the well disposed and paralyze their Efforts. I speak of them that I may renew the entreaty contained in my former letters that as soon as your Operations will permit you will pay us a visit and by your presence encourage exertion and overawe disaffection. In the mean time If an Officer of Confidence and Rank can be spared be asured sir that there are few points where he is so much wanted, the Consequence of our Militia General¹ hav[i]ng the Command may be easily imagined and need not be Enlarged on and I know that the Officers of the line as well as the reflecting Citizens Anticipate much Evil from that state of things.

1 Maj.-Gen. Jacques Villeré

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Every Days reflexion Convinces me that the Estima[te] of 4000 men exclusive of Garrison say 5000 in all with works at the balize at the Chef Menteur, the terre aux Boeufs, and the Temple, are indispensible to our Safety besides the forces under your immediate Command, if you should receive any advice Contrary to this I entreat that it may be well examined before it is acceded to from any credit it might derive from the rank of the persons who may give it.

My friend Mr. Duncan² who is already honored with your acquaintance, is perfectly well qualified to represent the true situation of our state we have had several Conversations on the subject and his Opinion perfectly Coincides with my own. On any other than a business so extremely interesting to us all I Should Apologize for the liberty I take, in these Communications should they prove unimportant they will be received with indulgence in favor of the Motive by which they are dictated

² Abner L. Duncan, a prominent lawyer of New Orleans.

I have the honor to be